

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/944,448

Examiner

Joseph T. Voitach

Applicant(s)

LIM ET AL.

Art Unit

1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 20, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-10,14,32 and 33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This application filed August 30, 2001 claims benefit to foreign applications: 2000-50881, filed August 30, 2000; 2000-65629, filed November 6, 2000; and 2001-12485, filed March 10, 2001 each filed in Korea.

Applicants' amendment filed August 20, 2004, has been received and entered. The specification has been amended. Claims 2, 11-13, 15-31 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-10, 14 and 32-33 are pending and currently under examination.

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election of group I, claims 1-14 and 25 in Paper No. 8 (and previously in paper number 6) was acknowledged. Groups I, III and IV were rejoined, because group III drawn to a method of isolating ICM cells with the use an anti-human lymphocyte antibody and group IV is drawn to a method of generating embryonic stem cells from ICM cells is encompassed by the instantly claimed method.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Cancellation of claim 13 has rendered rejections over this claim moot. The amendments to claims 1 and 14 have addressed and obviated the remaining rejections of record. As indicated previously, the prior art provided evidence that the use of various antibodies and complement to remove the trophectoderm were well known and used in the art to isolate inner cell mass cells.

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However, while various sources of antibody were used none of the references of record specifically teach to use an anti-lymphocyte antibody as presently claimed. The instant specification provides the first teaching and reasoning for the use of such an antibody in establishing human embryonic stem cells in culture.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Woitach whose telephone number is (571) 272-0739.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached at (571) 272-0734.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group analyst Dianiece Jacobs whose telephone number is (571) 272-0532.

Joseph T. Woitach

JOSEPH T. WOITACH
AGENT EXAMINER

Joe Woitach
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